

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 8, Folder 27

April 12, 1963 -  
June 16, 1964

0636

HENRY J. KAISER

POST OFFICE BOX ~~7000~~ 7997  
HONOLULU ~~HI~~ HAWAII

2  
April 12, 1963

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates  
Bohemian Club  
Post and Taylor Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Admiral Bates,

Thank you for your interesting message about your extended work on completing four out of seven planned volumes of World War II Battle Evaluations and your ardent efforts to complete the work.

Kaiser Foundations are concentrating efforts and funds in the field of health -- the building of hospitals, and in medical research, education and health care. The demands for funds far exceed the Foundation's generation of revenues and borrowing power. Therefore, I learn from the Trustees and associates that they do not have available funds from which to budget a contribution to the project which you would like carried to conclusion.

Sincerely,

*Henry J. Kaiser*  
Henry J. Kaiser

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VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

28 May 1963

Dear Admiral Bates:

Many thanks for your kind letter of 23 May.

It was a pleasure to be able to provide you transportation from the West Coast to Washington.

As regards the James Foundation, would you please send me the name of the official with whom I should correspond relative to the possibility of their taking on completion of the Leyte Gulf Project. I think it would be better if contacts were made with an individual personally rather than just the Foundation as such.

Your kind remarks regarding my present position are greatly appreciated. Certainly, this is a most interesting and challenging assignment. It is very difficult to evaluate accurately how things are going. One can only do his best and hope that the results will be beneficial for the Navy.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

*Claude Ricketts*  
CLAUDE RICKETTS

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret.)  
12 Mount Vernon Street  
Newport, Rhode Island

0638

8 JUL 1963

Dear Mr. Coulson:

After World War II at the suggestion of Secretary Forrestal, we initiated at the Naval War College a series of evaluation studies on major battles of that great maritime war. Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, U. S. Navy (Ret.) was selected to head the Battle Evaluation Study Group because of his wide experience, his keen and inquiring mind, and his persistence to get at the truth.

Over the years Admiral Bates, with his small group, made exhaustive studies of the decisive battles of Coral Sea, Midway, Savo, and several phases of the battle for Leyte Gulf. The resulting seven volumes published in classified form and supplemented by films have been of great service to the Navy.

With mounting ship and weapons costs, and increasing demands for funds to meet our far flung and growing world commitments, we have steadily had to cut from our appropriations some very important projects. In 1958 it became necessary to do this with this monumental work despite its obvious educational value as a study of high command, and despite the fact that evaluation of some of the most important phases of the battle for Leyte Gulf had not been completed.

As far as I know, nothing like these analyses in depth have been attempted elsewhere in World War II. No pains were spared to seek the truth. Every decision with every scrap of information available was carefully evaluated including precise plotting and charting. The unique character of these studies and their important educational as well as historical value should cause them to fall within the scope of your Foundation's beneficial activities.

Admiral Bates has previously sent you amplifying information on this project, but if you need additional details, he or I will be happy to supply them. I hope you can see your way clear to support the completion of the Leyte studies which I know will have lasting educational and historical benefits.

Sincerely,

ADMIRAL HOCKETT, USN  
VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Mr. Robert E. Coulson  
James Foundation of New York Inc.  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, New York

0639

8 JUL 1963

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Sincerely,

ADM CLAUDE RICKETTS, USN  
VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Mr. Robert E. Coulson  
James Foundation of New York Inc.  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, New York,

Orig by RADM E. M. ELLER, Op-09B9  
X 64443  
typed g. m. johnson 8 july 1963

0640

JAMES FOUNDATION OF NEW YORK, INC.  
375 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK 22

Ref: Op-09B9/gmj

Admiral Claude Ricketts, U.S.N.  
Vice Chief of Naval Operations  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Ricketts:

Your letter of July 8, 1963, has been referred to me for attention.  
We regret to advise you that Colonel Coulson died last December.

As Rear Admiral Bates was advised under date of April 5, 1961, the James Foundation would not be a source of funds for the project set forth in your letter. The present grant program does not embrace activities such as the Leyte studies. A proposal submitted to the Foundation under date of March 15, 1961, by Admiral Bates was brought to the attention of our Board in the Spring of 1961, and it was the consensus of the Trustees that the proposal then submitted which embraced the Leyte studies was outside the scope of activities of this Foundation, as indicated in Mr. James' will.

Sincerely,



A. Donald MacKinnon  
President

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DIRECTOR OF NAVAL HISTORY

Op-09B9/rm

10 July 1963

Dear Rafe:

Before now I would have answered your welcome letter of some weeks ago except that I have been away considerably. Furthermore, I have been working for you anyhow! and for the project.

I am sorry that the funds in Hawaii didn't see fit to support the project. Hawaii above all parts of the Union has an interest in seeing this command study properly completed. I'll be interested in hearing about Frank Hecht's suggestion and will do anything I can to make it work -- if it will work.

We are head over heels in work here as usual. It seems to multiply daily. I hope our products are being effective.

Enclosed is the latest on the Civil War.

All the best.

*Judge*  
E. M. ELLER

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret.)  
12 Mount Vernon Street  
Newport  
Rhode Island

0642



VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

13 July 1963

Dear Admiral Bates:

As indicated in the enclosed letters, I regret that my attempt to assist you in your fine project was unsuccessful. The President of the James Foundation states that the Leyte studies are outside the scope of the Foundation's activities.

If I may be of future assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

*Claude Ricketts*  
CLAUDE RICKETTS

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret.)  
12 Mount Vernon Street  
Newport, Rhode Island

Encl(1) Ltr to Mr. Coulson dtd 8 Jul 63  
(2) Ltr from James Foundation dtd 10 Jul 63

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# McINERNY FOUNDATION

DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

c/o BISHOP TRUST CO., LTD., TRUSTEE  
P. O. BOX 2390

HONOLULU 4, HAWAII

July 26, 1963

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret.)  
12 Mount Vernon Street  
Newport, Rhode Island

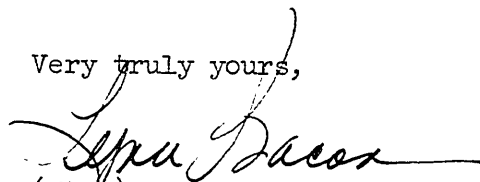
Dear Admiral Bates:

Your letter of May 8, 1963, was referred to the Distribution Committee of the McInerny Foundation and I have been directed to reply to it by this letter.

Mr. Walter F. Dillingham, who was formerly the Chairman of the Distribution Committee, has resigned. However, all activities which under the Trust Deed require Distribution Committee action are reported by and are the subject of correspondence with the Secretary for the Committee. The Secretary has had confirmed by legal counsel for the Distribution Committee the fact that your request is outside the scope of the Foundation, and under such circumstances it would not normally be processed beyond the Secretary. We trust this will clear up the matter for your files.

The Committee wishes you success in your endeavor to obtain funds for your project. It is indeed unfortunate that the Navy was unable to continue support of your project until completion.

Very truly yours,



(Miss) Lynn Bacon  
Secretary for the  
Distribution Committee  
McInerny Foundation

JRC:lb

0644



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO

18 May 1964

Dear Admiral Bates,

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 1964. I am sure that you realize my distress at being in the middle in this case of misunderstanding between BuPers and a distinguished Naval officer such as yourself. Since talking with you, I have telephoned Admiral Smedberg in Florida; he informed me in no uncertain terms that it was his understanding you were to be recalled as a Commodore. He regrets that any other impression was gained by you. Following this conversation, I talked with Admiral Ricketts, Admiral McDonald, Admiral Eller, informing them of the difficulty that had arisen. As a result, the decision has been made that to recall you as Commodore is the best we can offer.

We have been advised by the Senate Committee that recall of retired flag officers in their combat grades could well, among other things, require a reexamination of the Committee limitation on the number of officers serving in flag grade. Consequently, because of the implied danger of having retired flag officers serving on active duty counted against the numerical ceiling, it has long been the policy of the Secretary of the Navy to recall retired flag officers in their permanent grade rather than the combat grade when extended active duty is anticipated. There have been infrequent exceptions to this policy, but only under most unusual exceptions and not before the Senate Committee had been advised beforehand of the proposed action and full justification therefor.

A communication from the Chairman of the Sub-committee of the Senate advised "that the recall of retired officers to active service in a grade higher than that in which they served on active duty could raise certain problems. First there would be the result that such recalled persons in effect would receive a promotion without any selection proceedings insofar as active pay is concerned. This would tend to vitiate the entire selection and nomination process."

If you are willing to be recalled in the grade of Commodore, I would appreciate being so advised, together with the names of the officers and men you desire to assist you.

PEOPLE TO THE FORE IN 1964

0645

16 June 1964

MEMO TO ADMIRAL BATES:

Your age and the fact that you have had a partial physical disability on your retirement indicates that you cannot make an accurate forecast of the duration of your energy and ability to continue the physical exertion inherent in the active direction of this Project.

With the first expected arrival of officers being 1 October 1964 and with a three to 6-month indoctrination program being expected for each of your officers and enlisted assistants, it seems clear that by 1 July 1965 this work will really be making its first substantive progress.

In the light of the above two things seem obvious:

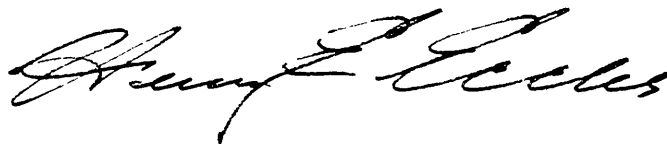
1. That provision must be made for you to determine your own work schedule with the greatest of consideration for your physical condition and this implies that you have a first-class executive who can direct the work in case of your temporary absence due to health.

2. This implies that before the completion of the entire Project, it will probably be necessary for this executive to take over the active direction and that you remain in a consultative and review position rather than in day-to-day active direction of the work. The precise influence of these conditions on the formal arrangements for the Project will require some thought. This most clearly indicates certain essential facts which must be considered.

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An important element of this Project is that past experience indicates that the assistants only prepare basic research material for use by Admiral Bates in the actual composition of the formal document. Only rarely will the composition of an assistant remain in essentially the same form in the final production. The burden of original composition, therefore, falls almost wholly on Admiral Bates' shoulders.

Having been associated with Admiral Bates very closely for years in the Naval War College, during which time he was writing these books, I learned that he put in more hours than anyone else, often a great many more, including Saturdays and Sundays in order to complete the written body up to date with the research.



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